item which has appeared in a section of the press that there have been clashes in Siachen between Indian and Pakistani troops during the last week of September, 1987, resulting in heavy casualties;

(b) if so, what are the details of the attack;

(c) what is the number of Indian Jawans injured and killed in these clashes; and

(d) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan; if so, what has been the reaction of that Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL). (a) and (b) During the last week of September, Pakistani forces, in a battalion strength, attacked our posts on the Saltoro ridge area of Siachen. The attacks were preceded by heavy concentration of artillery fire The Pakistani troops also used rockets and missiles.

(c) There have been a few casualties on our side. Pakistani troops are understood to have suffered heavy casualties. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

(d) No protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in this regard.

Regional non-proliferation agreement

629. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement reportedly made by the Pakistani Foreign Minister, inaugurating a conference on non-proliferation in South Asia in Islamabad on the 1st September, 1987, wherein he has pleaded for equality and non-discrimination *vis-a-vis* India in the nuclear field on the basis of regional non proliferation agreement;

(b) if so, what was the precise statement made by the Pak Foreign Minister; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The statement found wide publicity in our Press of the 2nd September. In effect, the then Pakistan Foreign Minister made some suggestions of a bilateral and regional nature on the issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

(c) Government are of the view that there can be no bilateral or regional solution to the dangers of nuclear proliferation. This is a global issue which can only be tackled globally. Moreover, the statement goes fill with Pakistan's single-minded drive for a nuclear-weapons capability.

Pak adapting F-16 for bomb delivery

630. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report from London, published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 3, 1987 captioned "Pak adapting F-16 for bomb delivery" quoting experts in Lonodn that 'Islamabad has nearly completed a transportable nuclear bomb' and is busy adapting one of the F-16 air-craft at Kamra West of Islamabad for the delivery of its first nuclear bomb;

(b) if so, whether the report has since been confirmed; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?